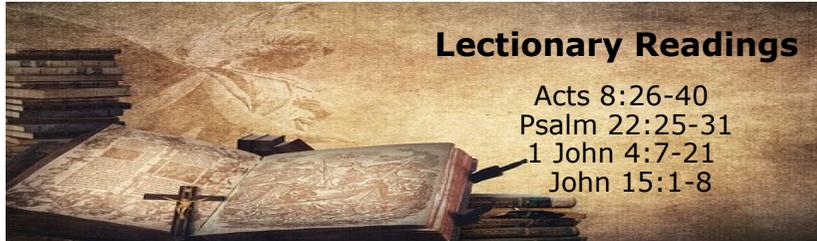


**Please remember the following in your prayers this week:**



Margaret Turner; Hazel Evans and Liz Gardener, as they both recover from their hip operations; Debbie (Hilda & Paul Brown's niece); Bridget Gibbs; Deborah Strange; Cliff & Joh Randell; Sekelani Ngulube; Hope in Christ School, Zambia.



**Lectionary Readings**

Acts 8:26-40  
Psalm 22:25-31  
1 John 4:7-21  
John 15:1-8

**Our Minister is Rev Rachel Frank**

If you have any concerns, personal or Church related, please contact her by phone (07377137818) or email (rachel.frank@methodist.org.uk)

www.chepstowmethodist.org.uk

**Our Church is OPEN for Private Prayer**



Our Church will be open for private prayer on **Wednesday afternoons from 2.00 - 3.00pm**. These time slots will be staffed by two volunteers, mostly consisting of the Stewarding Team. However, if you would like to volunteer to be part of the team covering these times, please contact Rev Rachel.

People will need to wear masks, maintain appropriate distance, and follow the one-way system in and out. We are not asking at this time for people to book in, though if the number of people coming to pray greatly exceeds our expectations, we may have to implement this system in future.

We hope that some of you will make use of the opportunity for private prayer in our church building and that you will find it spiritually nourishing as we press on toward that light at the end of the tunnel.

Do you have any **family news, anecdotes, uplifting quotations, etc** that you would like to share with the Church Family?

If so, please contact:

Russell Collins, email: [notices@chepstowmethodist.org.uk](mailto:notices@chepstowmethodist.org.uk)

**by Thursday 6.00pm**

**Worship in our Church:**

For the time being, we are still worshipping together online on a **Sunday morning at 10.00am** - accessible on **ZOOM** from the following link on the **internet** and the numbers below that via the **telephone**.



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84365646364?pwd=U3J0MUNEEdVdkZE8xbERTMwVmM3ZnUT09>

**If you are in contact with anyone who doesn't have the Internet**, please can you let them know that they can join the service in audio through their **telephone** by dialling any of the national numbers below; entering the Meeting ID followed by the # key on their phone, followed by the Passcode and once again the # key as instructed by the verbal prompts from Zoom's recorded message. At the end of the service to join in a chat with others on Zoom unmute the telephone by entering \* followed by 6.

- 0203 051 2874 United Kingdom
- 0203 481 5237 United Kingdom
- 0203 481 5240 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 843 6564 6364 - (followed by # as prompted)

Passcode: 250856 - (followed by # as prompted)

If you are unable to attend the screening at 10.00am, there will be a YouTube link provided for later viewing.

+ + + + +

**This Sunday, 2nd May** - our **10am Sunday Worship** will be led by Rev Rachel Frank

**Next Sunday, 9th May** - our **10am Sunday Worship** will be led by Paul Burke

+ + + + +

**Our Church is OPEN for Private Prayer:**

**Wednesdays 2.00 - 3.00pm**

Do you know anyone who is sick, bereaved or in need of a visit or flowers? Or has moved to this area or Church? If so, please contact *Kathy Griffin*

## Thank you

A big 'thank you' to everyone for your prayers, thoughts, messages, cards and flowers with which I have been blessed following my recent hip op. I am making good progress and look forward to seeing you all again before too long.

Love and blessings  
*Elizabeth*



**Every Monday - 7.00 - 8.00pm**  
**"Praying Together"**

- During these challenging times can we encourage you all to join in prayer, between 7-8 pm on Monday evenings in your own homes, so that we are joined together in prayer as the "Body of Christ".

Prayer



Hello CMC Friends

Well, we are starting to see some changes, with things opening up again, and the High Street looking almost as busy as it did before Covid (on the days with beautiful weather, anyway!)

Having said this, I know many of us are probably starting to really yearn to be back in our Church building for worship and activities, and we can take comfort in knowing that isn't too far away. However, I just want to reiterate that, as a Church, we committed to keeping our building closed for worship throughout May, along with Circuit Guidance.

So, our first in-person service will be the 6th June, and what an exciting moment that will be! We will truly celebrate that day, and even more so when we're able to meet again without the need for masks and distance! Can you even imagine that after all this time?

Also, I wanted to let you know that the Stewards have decided that, for the month of May, we will only open the Church for private prayer on Wednesday afternoons. This is simply because no one has come in on a Sunday afternoon since we began opening for private prayer, though several have come in on Wednesdays. We do hope that some of you have been able to take joy in being in our sacred space and having moments of prayer and meditation there.

I know we're all ready for all of this to be behind us. We may not be there yet, but we're headed in the right direction.

Blessings to all of you in this time.

With love and in Christ

*Rev. Rachel*

Do keep looking at the Church website for **podcasts** and **updates** from the Church on Covid19  
<https://chepstowmethodist.org.uk/>

### **Bible Study/House Groups via Zoom**

**Thursday morning, 9.30am** - All are welcome to join us at Bible Study which meets on Zoom (862 2748 0080 or telephone, details from Tony Williams) on Thursday mornings at 9.30 for an hour. We are continuing our studies on the gospel of Mark. Do come and give us a try.

**Wednesday morning, 10.00am** - If you are interested in joining, please contact Pam Horne via the Web Person link on the Contact page of our website.



## **Food Co-Op**

The Food Co-op is still able to operate during the current Level 4 restrictions. Orders and money each Friday, from 10.30 - 11.30am will be taken for a delivery on the following Friday. Someone will be outside the Church Hall to explain all the necessary precautions and we will be dealing in cash - £3 for 5 items of veg, fruit, salad or stir-fry and £1 for 6 large free-range eggs. Paul and I look forward to seeing you.

If you have any queries, please contact Pauline Davies



## **Notice for Members of Women's Fellowship**

### **A Date for your Diary....**

Provided Covid regulations allow, Rev Rachel will chair the AGM on 30th June at 2.45pm in Chepstow Methodist Church. We will then be able to discuss plans for the Autumn season. Our meeting will be followed as usual by a Cream Tea. Hope to see you all there.

I will send an update at the beginning of June.

*Wendy White*

## **CAN SOMEBODY GIVE ME A HOME (AGAIN)?**

I am being made homeless again now Margaret Turner has moved into Bethany. Margaret and I got on very well and I have been so very grateful for my free lodgings she has given me over the past 14+ years.

My requirements are quite modest. I only need floor space measuring some 1.5m by 1.0m (4.5ft by 3ft) and am quite happy to spend my time in the corner of a nice, dry garage or similar room. I go on a working holiday once a year for about 6 weeks at Christmas. I give joy and pleasure to many children (and adults) as I "perform" outside the front of our church, along with my friend, the Christmas tree. So, if you need the space at Christmas for those "extra" big Christmas gifts, the space I occupy throughout the year will be available. I am housetrained and don't make any mess. I would prefer to be somewhere close to the church, i.e. in Chepstow as, due to my age I do not travel so well as I used to.

So, if you think you could offer me some suitable accommodation please contact my foster parents, Keith & Margaret Harvey and I'm sure they will be very pleased to hear from you.

*Jesus' Christmas Stable*

**LOOKING  
FOR  
NEW HOME**





Revd. Gordon Gresswell  
608 Chepstow Road  
Newport  
NP19 9BZ

[g.gresswell@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:g.gresswell@yahoo.co.uk) Home: 01633 272066 Mobile: 07570992890

April 27<sup>th</sup> 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

As life seems to reopen in Wales and we start to look ahead to a hoped for brighter, vaccinated future, I write an update of where we are as a Methodist Circuit and as a Methodist Church.

#### Firstly: Reopening of Churches.

The distancing, mask, and singing rules remain in place for places of worship, but some of our churches have reopened to worship in premises, and I am aware that others are planning to in May. The Circuit's plan is to have a 'Worship Plan' involving all of our Churches in place for June 6<sup>th</sup> through to August 29<sup>th</sup>. Some of this may be a mixed-economy of Zoom and physical presence, but the intention is for us to be able to gather as people in physical proximity to one another to offer our prayers and worship to the Living God revealed in the Risen Christ. If the rules stated above change in any way we will, of course, inform you all.

#### Secondly: Farewells, Welcomes and Congratulations.

We had proposed a Zoom Service for an opportunity to say a 'proper' farewell to Revs Preben and Ruth (alongside Margaret and Richard), a welcome to Rev Bethany and congratulations to Local Preachers who have achieved landmark years in their service to the Lord. This was intended for Ascension Day (May 13<sup>th</sup>) but will now NOT take place. This is because we are hoping to actually have an outdoor Service where we can safely meet. The UK Government's plan is aiming for a 'full-opening' up from June 21<sup>st</sup>, and we envisage that the Senedd will be giving a go-ahead in Wales for around the same time. We are searching for an appropriate venue and date. Preben, Ruth and Bethany are all excited about opportunities to actually meet some actual flesh and blood three-dimensional Christians. We envisage this to be late June/early July and please pray that we find the right venue and the right day when the sun is going to shine!

#### Thirdly: Synod and Connexional News.

There was a special Wales Synod last Saturday (April 24<sup>th</sup>). One item of this was a proposal for Synod Cymru to amalgamate into the Wales Synod and become one. There is work to be done still but this was agreed upon, in principle on Saturday.

The main body of discussion was around an indicative vote around the resolutions in the God in Love Unites us Conference Report. This Circuit's voters were the ordained clergy and five Lay Reps. There were five separate votes on these resolutions. These resolutions involved changes to CPD in regard to the understanding of the status of marriage in the Methodist Church. Some of this provision was around issues of cohabitation of couples and around people of the same sex being able to be married in a Methodist Church. All of the resolutions were accepted by majority votes.

These resolutions are for discussion at this year's Conference. This Synod's votes do not count towards this, this is why it is known as an indicative vote, it is a vote to reflect the generalised view of any particular Synod/District. If these resolutions are passed at Conference each Church Council will be asked, within the next 12 months, whether they are willing to accept a marriage ceremony to take place on their premises or not.

This has been a difficult discussion for many. Some have been strongly for these resolutions and some have been strongly against these resolutions. For some this will be a source of rejoicing and for others a source of angst and struggle. The Methodist Church is a broad church with many different views held. May Christ bless us with peace in our prayers and thoughts.

#### Fourthly: Daily Devotions

Thank you to all who have enabled us, day-by-day, to worship God collectively over this past year. The plans are for these to continue until the end of June. The Gospel of Mark is the set book for Bible Month which takes place in June. We plan for a daily devotion throughout June beginning on 1<sup>st</sup> June with Mark Chapter 1, and my hope is that 30 different people will take a day each giving us a wide variety of voices. After this we hope to continue with a written Sunday Service connecting us all as disciples of the Living God.

Thank you for the privilege of being your Superintendent Minister. If you have any questions please do ask, and if you have any news you wish to share please do let me know.

May grace and peace be with you all.

**Gordon**